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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1994 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Yesterday, the Permanent Mission of Uganda issued a press release highlighting the leading role played by the President of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Museveni, in seeking a solution to the tragedy in Rwanda.

In particular, the press release highlighted President Museveni's discussions with the Assistant Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs of the United States of America. During those discussions President Museveni expressed the concern of all Ugandans, stressing that the Ugandan Government was greatly disturbed by the continuing bloodshed in Rwanda.

The President and Mr. Shattuck (Assistant Secretary of State) agreed that Rwandese leaders must end all forms of violence against civilians and engage in an immediate cease-fire through a process of military-to-military negotiations as discussed at Arusha. They also discussed and agreed on the need to curb the flow of arms into the country.

President Museveni and Assistant Secretary Shattuck agreed that an inquiry into human rights violations in Rwanda should be initiated urgently. They welcomed the announcement by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Ayala Lasso that he would undertake a mission next week to Rwanda. They expressed support for the idea of convoking a special session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to examine urgently the human rights crisis in Rwanda.

President Museveni and Mr. Shattuck discussed the urgent need for unimpeded access to all forms of humanitarian assistance, especially food and emergency medical attention, to all displaced persons and others in need in Rwanda. During the discussion, President Museveni expressed support for an enhanced international presence in Rwanda to achieve these objectives and facilitate dialogue.

President Museveni proposed a regional summit at which all the warring parties would be represented as the best way of finding a lasting solution to the conflict in Rwanda.

Assistant Secretary Shattuck reiterated the strong United States commitment to work with others in the international community to help to provide humanitarian assistance for the victims of the Rwanda crisis. He expressed President Clinton's deep appreciation for the leadership role President Museveni had undertaken in seeking a solution to the tragedy in Rwanda.

President Museveni also received the special envoys of President Mobutu of Zaire and President Mwinyi of the United Republic of Tanzania on 7 May 1994 to discuss further regional efforts towards a lasting peaceful settlement of the crisis.

The presence of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) together with the Ugandan Government's support for an arms embargo should be very reassuring to the fears expressed by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda in his letter to you dated 2 May 1994 (S/1994/531).

In that letter also, the Permanent Representative referred to an increase in the staff and capacity of UNOMUR besides the strengthening of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR). The Ugandan Government fails to see the connection there unless there is a quiet implication that UNOMUR has failed in its duties to monitor the Uganda/Rwanda border, which of course is not the case.

Moreover, it should be very clear that there is a distinct difference in the roles and mandates of the two missions, UNAMIR and UNOMUR, and there should be no indirect attempt to merge the two.

The Ugandan Government will continue to offer its full cooperation to all regional and international efforts towards the attainment of a lasting peaceful settlement to the Rwanda crisis.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anne MUGISHA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.